

For Immediate Release

#21-15

**NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HOSTS GRADUATION CEREMONY
FOR JOHN D. SOLOMON PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWS**

May 5, 2015 – New York City Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito hosted a graduation ceremony today at Barnard College for nine graduate students who completed the city’s first student fellowship devoted specifically to emergency management. The graduating fellows attend universities including NYU, Columbia, Stony Brook, and Hunter College, with a range of majors such as public administration, urban planning, and international educational development.

“In the time since these fellows started last September, they worked hard, served their fellow New Yorkers, and learned from their experiences along the way,” Commissioner Esposito said. “They are great examples of the leaders of tomorrow, and their projects will have a lasting, positive effect on the New York City community.”

The John D. Solomon Fellowship for Public Service provides graduate students in the New York City area the opportunity to complete a nine-month, paid fellowship with a city agency or nonprofit organization focused on emergency management. The graduating Solomon fellows, all of whom are current graduate students in New York, worked for City agencies and organizations including NYC Emergency Management, NYC Department for the Aging, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, FDNY, NYC Department of Education, the American Red Cross of Greater NY, and NYC Digital. Through their work, the fellows gained valuable, first-hand experience in the critical and growing field of emergency management.

“I learned that when it comes to emergency planning, response, and recovery, there is much more of a collaborative effort between the public and private sectors than I had originally thought,” said graduating fellow Lexi Neibart, who worked throughout her fellowship to help small businesses prepare for emergencies. “I think strengthening the relationships between the public and private sectors make us a stronger city for being able to respond to and recover from disasters.”

Sponsored by NYC Emergency Management, the Solomon Fellowship was established in 2012 by the family and friends of the late John D. Solomon, an accomplished journalist focusing on homeland security and other public policy issues. A devoted public servant and active member of his local NYC Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), John was a passionate advocate of emergency preparedness and resilience. Tasks will range from educating the public about emergency preparedness to helping define the coordination role and practices during large-scale emergency responses.

The new class of 2015 Solomon Fellows will begin their nine-month term this June.

-30-

EVENT: John D. Fellowship Graduation

TIME: 12:00 PM

WHERE: Diana Center Event Oval, 3009 Broadway – Enter at W.
119th Street

MEDIA CONTACT: Nancy Silvestri/Omar Bourne (718) 422-4888 |
nsilvestri@oem.nyc.gov; obourne@oem.nyc.gov

STAY CONNECTED: Twitter: @NotifyNYC (emergency notifications)
@nycoem (emergency preparedness info)

Facebook: /NYCemergencymanagement
Instagram: @nycoem
YouTube: NotifyNYC